

1 ***Regular Meeting***  
2 ***Minutes***  
3 ***November 20, 2006***  
4

5 *A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County,*  
6 *New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough of Leonia Library, commencing at*  
7 *7:34pm*

8 Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.  
9

10 Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilman President Puzzo led  
11 in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
12

13 ***Council Present:*** *Mayor Cherchi, Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Raucci, Ryan,*  
14 *Puzzo*  
15

16 ***Council Absent:*** *Councilwoman Mitrani*  
17

18 ***Also Present:*** *Council-Elect Choi and Raspa-Gore, Fran Lehmann, Borough*  
19 *Clerk, Brian Giblin Borough Attorney,*  
20

21 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**  
22

23 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin  
24 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.  
25

26 Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exit.  
27

28 **APPOINTMENT**

29 Mayor Cherchi appointed Barbara Marchant to the unexpired term of Peter Gall on the  
30 Environmental Commission.  
31

32 **REPORTS**  
33

34 **Standing Committees**

35 Finance & Personnel – Councilwoman Heveran reported that two  
36 applicants were interviewed for the position of Borough Administrator.  
37 More applicants are scheduled to be interviewed. Councilwoman Heveran  
38 would like to advertise on the League Website once again for the position  
39 of Administrator.  
40

41 Laws & Ordinances Councilman Puzzo – Nothing to report at this time.  
42

43 Police Councilman Ryan – Councilman Ryan acknowledged letters  
44 received commending the Police Department and the Public Works. The  
45 Commission has not met.  
46

47 Fire Councilwoman Heveran reported that the Fire Department responded  
48 to 50 alarms in the month of October. On November 11 & 12 15 members  
49 attended a class on Incident Command. Communications project has  
50 slowed down until some details can be worked out with Pro-Com. The  
51 new Rescue Truck will be delivered at the end of January. Richard  
52 Quinton received the Shield Award. The Award for Fire was renamed last  
53 year the John “Pappy” O’Toole award at a breakfast at St. John’s Knights  
54 of Columbus.

55  
56 Ambulance Councilman Raucci reported that the generator will be  
57 installed in December.

58  
59 Public Works Councilman Ryan deferred to Councilman Ryan for a report  
60 on the power to the tree on the triangle. Councilman Raucci reported that  
61 PSE&G is in the process of locating a sufficient power source. The  
62 lighting ceremony will take place we may need to use a Fire Department  
63 generator as a temporary measure. Councilwoman Heveran inquired why  
64 the trees in front of Moores’ were not lit. Councilwoman Heveran also  
65 inquired about an extension cord that is being used to connect two trees in  
66 front of Photo Professor. Councilwoman Heveran felt that the cord was  
67 dangerously low.

68  
69 Real Estate and Insurance Councilman Hawkins reported on the last  
70 meeting held by the Committee.

71  
72 Administration – The Borough Clerk asked the Governing Body to look at  
73 the samples of carpet for the Annex.

74  
75 Mayor – Mayor Cherchi announced the tree lighting. Mayor Cherchi  
76 reported the County is going to install the new pedestrian countdown  
77 walk/don’t walk signs on the new lights at the intersection of Broad  
78 Avenue and Fort Lee Road. Mayor Cherchi noted that the plans show the  
79 left turn lanes as was approved by the Governing Body. Mayor Cherchi  
80 reported that he spoke to the County project representative today and he  
81 told him they are not being put in. Councilman Hawkins reported that he  
82 understands the traffic signals will be wired for the signals but they are not  
83 going to be installed at this time. Councilwoman Heveran requested the  
84 Mayor write a letter asking for an explanation regarding the left turn  
85 signals.

86  
87 Special Bodies of the Borough - Councilman Hawkins reported on a  
88 symposium he attended on sustainability at Kean College.

89  
90 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

91 Alexander Atheras 244 Hillside Avenue – Inquired if the tree lighting was going to be  
92 with colored lights or white lights? Mr. Atheras reported that a Councilperson stated we

do not want colored lights because they are too “Christmassy.” We want white lights. The majority of the Council stated the lights will be colored lights.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution 06-268 through 06-274 - A motion was made by Councilperson Hawkins to approve Resolution 06-268 through 06-274, seconded by Council President Puzzo. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Mitrani was absent. Resolution approved.

Mayor Cherchi referred to a report regarding the wetlands delineation report and the area that it showed. Mayor Cherchi still feels that a survey is needed for this area. Councilman Hawkins spoke about a comprehensive survey that was done of the area for the Overpeck Preserve. Councilman Hawkins has a copy of the report regarding the area.

A motion was made by Councilperson Puzzo to approve Resolution 06-275 to authorize the preparation of a survey of the Southwest Corner between Leonia and Palisades Park by Edsall Boulevard in an amount not to exceed \$1500 contingent on the certification of funds by the CFO. Councilman Raucci seconded the motion. Councilman Hawkins would like an explanation as to what exactly is being surveyed. Mayor Cherchi explained what was being sought. Councilman Hawkins explained that what he was looking for and what he was going to get were two different things. Councilman Hawkins feels it needs to be better defined in the Resolution as to what is to be surveyed. Mayor Cherchi stated Block 1501, Lot 26, the southerly boundaries. Councilwoman Heveran inquired if more information is needed in order to have this done properly. Councilman Puzzo asked for Mr. Giblin’s opinion. Mr. Giblin explained the process. After a discussion Councilman Puzzo withdrew his motion and Councilman Raucci withdrew his second.

### **ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES**

Adoption of Ordinance 16-06 entitled:

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE POSITION OF MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING OF LEONIA’S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE FAIR HOUSING ACT.**

Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title.  
Public Hearing – no one spoke

A motion was made by Councilperson Heveran seconded by Councilperson Puzzo to approve on final reading Ordinance 16-06

Roll call vote; Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo. Voted yes, Ordinance adopted.

139  
140  
141  
142 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 143 a) Illegal Housing Task Force – Councilwoman Heveran read into the record a  
144 memo she sent to Chief Ziegler regarding having a Police Officer on the Illegal  
145 Housing Task Force. Councilwoman Heveran then read into the record the  
146 response from Chief Ziegler.  
147  
148 b) Borough Administrator – Mayor Cherchi noted that Councilwoman Heveran had  
149 given an update earlier in her report.  
150  
151 c) Idling Ordinance – Borough Attorney Giblin asked if the Governing Body had  
152 any further changes to the Idling Ordinance? The Governing Body had no further  
153 changes to the Ordinance. The Ordinance to be introduced at the Meeting of  
154 12/4/06.  
155  
156 d) Borough Administrator Ad for League Website – Councilwoman Heveran would  
157 like to readvertise on the League Website. The Borough Clerk stated the cost is  
158 \$105.00 and made a suggestion; in the current ad it states “two years experience  
159 preferred”. The Borough Clerk suggested changing preferred to “required.” The  
160 Governing Body agreed to the change.  
161

162 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 163 a) Chain of Command – Councilwoman Heveran reiterated the importance of  
164 following the chain of command that instead of going to an employee the  
165 Governing Body should go the Department Head first. Mayor Cherchi does not  
166 feel that Mr. Peters memo is correct. Councilwoman Heveran feels that the  
167 Governing Body should not be going to an employee but to a department head.  
168 This item will be carried over the next agenda.  
169  
170 b) Lights on Ramp at Exit 71 – Councilwoman Heveran reported that she has  
171 requested the Borough Clerk contact the DOT regarding the lights that are out  
172 along that exit. The Borough Clerk reported that she has contacted both of the  
173 individuals but has not had a response. The Borough Clerk will contact them  
174 again.  
175  
176 c) Board of Health – Held until the meeting of December 4, 2006.  
177

178 **CORRESPONDENCE**

179  
180 Letter from Jeff McCartney – Councilwoman Heveran inquired about the letter from Mr.  
181 McCartney. Council President Puzzo reported that he has spoken to Mr. McCartney and  
182 the Engineer has looked at the problem. There is work that needs to be done and the  
183 funding will have to be in place for 2007. Councilman Hawkins inquired if this situation  
184 has been caused by the Fort Lee and Board of Education directing the water from that

185 parking lot? Council President Puzzo said that definitely has something to do with the  
186 problem. Mayor Cherchi stated the water is following an old stream bed and there is no  
187 where for it to go.

188  
189 Mayor Cherchi noted a memo from the CFO regarding a change in State Law requiring  
190 payments for contracts in 20days.

191  
192 Mayor Cherchi reported on a letter from Senator Weinberg that we have received funding  
193 for Broad Avenue part V for \$135,000.

194  
195 Councilman Raucci inquired about the contracts for Borough Hall. Borough Attorney  
196 Giblin reported on the contract. The Borough Clerk reported the only other thing missing  
197 at this time is the building permits.

198  
199 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

200  
201 No one spoke.

202  
203 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All  
204 in favor; none opposed.

205  
206 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned  
207 at 8:55 pm

208  
209 Respectfully submitted,

210  
211  
212 Fran Lehmann  
213 Borough Clerk